



# THIS WEEK IN IRAQ



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## Top Stories



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Water pumps along the Sweetwater Canal are working again, supplying water to Basra from the Gharraf River more than 150 miles away.

## Flowing again

**Basra's Sweetwater Canal is once again  
supplying water to the southern city.**

*Story and photo by Suzanne M. Fournier  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

**BASRA** — A reliable water supply has returned for more than 2.5 million residents in the Basra and Thi Qar Provinces because of renovations to the Basra/Umm Qasr water supply system.

At one point, only half of Basra's 1.6 million residents were getting fresh water. Many areas had been dependent on water brought in by tankers, but even that was inefficient and aid organizations struggled to meet demand.

Since then, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has worked to re-establish water connections to Basra. With money from

the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, they have repaired pumps, treatment plants and modernized the precious canals that connect the city to the fresh water farther north.

The Tigris and Euphrates rivers flow southward and join together to form the Shatt al-Arab waterway. The port city of Basra straddles the Shatt al-Arab, and despite all the water, most of it is dirty because of silt and pollution.

In the 1990s, the Sweetwater Canal was built to bring fresher water from the Gharraf River, a tributary of the Tigris, into

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**GENERAL CASEY'S CORNER****Lending a helping hand**

Last week I flew to Fallujah to meet the men and women of the 5th Regimental Combat Team. As I

do with all units, I shared the words of T.E. Lawrence, "Do not try to do too much with your own hands ... it is their war, and you are to help them, not to win it for them." This powerful theme, consistent with our motto, "Iltizam Mashtarak - United Commitment", guides our joint vision for success in Iraq.

Iraqis are determining their future according to their Constitution. Together the people, the government, and the security forces are shaping Iraq's transition to self-reliance. It will take time, and there will be challenges. Those challenges will be resolved through legitimate political processes, protected by professional security forces. In the spirit of partnership, the Coalition will support the Iraqi government in finding sustainable solutions, and in creating a unity of purpose that protects and respects the rights of all Iraqis.

There is no doubt that our partnership is evolving. The Coalition is assuming a supporting role as Iraqi institutions develop a more predominant leading capacity. The Iraqi Security Forces, and Operation Scales of Justice, are a tangible example of this evolution. More than 250,000 Iraqi Security Forces are independently conducting more than 30

percent of all security operations in Iraq, defending civilians against the enemies of liberty. Operation Scales of Justice, in Baghdad, highlights the growing Iraqi leadership in security operations. More than 27,000 Iraqi Soldiers and Police, partnered with about 14,000 Coalition Forces have

**By Gen. George W. Casey**  
Multi-National Force - Iraq  
Commanding General



added 200 new daily patrols and operate more than 130 traffic control checkpoints in Baghdad. A ratio of

about two Iraqi Security personnel for every coalition member engaged in operations against terrorist and insurgent violence in the city. Our partnership in Baghdad is yielding dividends, and this is reflected in other parts of the Iraq as well.

Our partnership strategy is working. Iraqis are increasingly taking a leading role, supported by capable coalition units. The insurgents are well aware of the growing strength of the Iraqi government and resolve of the Iraqi people to move toward peace, democracy, and self-reliance. No doubt that terrorists will continue attempts to derail this progress toward Iraqi unity with spectacular attacks aimed at dividing Iraq along sectarian lines. The relative calm and effective Iraqi government response to the recent bombing of the Shi'a mosque in Buratha highlights the success of our partnership, and bodes well for future stability in Iraq.

The insurgents and terrorists in Iraq will ultimately be defeated by Iraqis. The Coalition will continue to assist and support Iraqi Security Forces

**"Together the people, the government, and the security forces are shaping Iraq's transition to self-reliance."**

where needed, and where requested, in the tradition of Iltizam Mashtarak. The Iraqis are making progress in this war, securing their future with solutions that make sense for Iraqis. The Coalition stands firmly by our Iraqi partners to help them win and preserve liberty for all Iraqis.

*Photos around the Fertile Crescent*

Air Force Sgt. Gerald Trimble Jr. and Senior Airman Dustin Schlack install a drogue to the boom of a KC-135E for refueling Navy aircraft.



U.S. Soldiers from Provincial Training Team in Diwaniyah test smoke grenade launchers on a Humvee at the small arms firing range just outside Camp Echo.



U.S. Sailors and Polish Soldiers stop to pose with a camel on a mission with the Iraqi Army's 8th Division.



One of the main walkways at Camp Echo in Diwaniyah has garnered the unofficial name of Freedom Street.

**THIS WEEK IN**  
**IRAQ** Online

[www.mnf-iraq.com](http://www.mnf-iraq.com)



# CSI: IRAQ

## Police receive new forensic gear

Story by Pfc. Edgar Reyes  
4th Infantry Division

**FOB KALSU** — The 4th Infantry Division's 988th Military Police Company, delivered new forensic equipment to the Iraqi Criminal Investigative Service crime lab March 25.

The new equipment provides Iraqi Police the ability to process forensic evidence collected at crime scenes which will be used to track down terrorists and criminals.

"This is another step in making the Iraqi Police independent," said Capt. Steven Devitt, 988th MP Company commander.

This equipment will enable the Iraqi police to be more proactive when engaging terrorists, he said.

Iraqi Police agreed.

"This new equipment will be very helpful in finding terrorists," said Capt. Muthana, an Iraqi police officer.

Question Tag

Q: How many countries are part of the Coalition?

There are 28 members of the Coalition, including many of Iraq's regional neighbors. Countries like Georgia, Kazakhstan and Armenia make great contributions and a stable Iraq is important to their people, economy and security.

## Presidential Presence



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman  
**Lech Kaczynski, the president of Poland, is escorted off a helicopter at Sather Air Base during a visit.**

# Night raid weeds out terrorists in Dawr

Story by Sgt. Wayne D. Haley  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**DAWR** — Coalition Forces and the Iraqi Army worked together to detain five suspected terrorists during a night raid in Dawr.

The 101st Airborne Division's Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, better known as the Comanche Troop, conducted the raid after receiving information gathered during Operation Swarmer. Swarmer was one of the largest joint Coalition Forces and Iraqi Army operations to date.

For the night raid, two Coalition teams and an Iraqi Army team were targeting homes of insurgents. The first raided home yielded a two-liter bottle of metal pellets, a smaller bottle containing gun-powder

and small amount of wire; all possible improvised explosive device parts. They also uncovered an unregistered rifle.

Soldiers found anti-Iraqi propaganda in the second home, along with Iraqi Police gear, two rifles and electronic components used as explosive detonators. Since none of the residents were Iraqi Police, troops believed the gear was stolen and used to establish fake check-points. Anti-Iraqi forces have been known to employ this tactic to disrupt Iraq's stabilization process.

They conducted other raids over three days, capturing a number of other suspected insurgents, all based on information gathered from Operation Swarmer, said Capt. Tom Fournier, Troop C commander, from Exeter, N.H.

The success of the mission was attributed to the Iraqi Army.

"The Iraqi Army is stepping into their position well," Fournier said.

There are definite advantages to letting the Iraqi Army have more involvement in these operations, he said. They know the area, the language and the people, allowing them to better decipher intelligence. Fournier knows this first hand, having served with the Military Transition Team, training members of the Iraqi Army in Tikrit before coming to Dawr.

"I think people back in the States think [the Iraqi Army is] doing their own thing while we are doing ours, but it's not that way," Fournier said. "I think part of our growing success is the bond between our Soldiers and their Soldiers."



The Incident Response Platoon pulls their Humvees into firing position at the convoy test fire range at al Asad prior to leaving base on the morning of April 3. The IRP is attached to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

## Marines provide CA security



Children from a housing complex in Baghdad talk with Marines during an engineering operation April 3.



Incident Response Platoon leads a convoy providing security for a civil affairs team in al Asad.

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Chad McMeen and  
Lance Cpl. Brandon L. Roach  
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

**ALASAD** — In the early hours of April 3, Marines and Sailors with the Incident Response Platoon began an operation that would take them outside the wire and into the local town of Baghdadi.

The IRP is attached to 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing's Marine Wing Support Squadron 274, Marine Wing Support Group 37, and is responsible for providing security for missions throughout the al Anbar Province. The morning mission had the team escorting members of a civil affairs group and Police Transition Team to a housing complex where they would meet with residents.

Once the convoy arrived safely at the small outpost, the Marines were able to give a much needed break to 3rd Marine Regiment's 3rd Battalion, who had spent three days in the area with little sleep.

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# Volunteer of the Week

## Red Cross worker brightening history

Story by Sgt. Wayne D. Haley  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**TIKRIT** — Everyday women are making history here in Iraq, but one Red Cross worker is making history one servicemember at a time.

Heather Ross, the assistant station manager at the Tikrit American Red Cross, might not make the history books but she is a part of the troops' history while in Iraq.

Ross started as a volunteer with the Red Cross in the United States. This is her fourth trip to the region and she is completing her second year in Iraq.

"I love this job, I absolutely love this job," Ross said. "I love working with the

Soldiers. I love hearing their stories. I love being part of this."

The Red Cross provides a communication link between the American public and the military.

Ross and the other two members of her team assist units and the troops when they have to go home on emergency leave. The team also gets to relay good-news messages to troops that might be hard to contact.

The Tikrit office provides some additional, morale boosting services. They run



Heather Ross, Red Cross worker in Iraq

a coffee shop and give away free gift cards. All of the products handed out are donated by businesses and people that support the military.

Ross and her team often stand outside dining facilities and hand out the gifts as people come through. If someone looks grumpy they might get a gift check just to cheer them up.

"Every once in awhile you get to touch someone's life at a personal level," Ross said. "We have people all over the world but I feel like it means something to be over here."

## Canal

from page 1

the city. It was also expected to solve some of the many historic water problems in the area.

The Basra/Umm Qasr Water Treatment Facility is just south of the Basra International Airport and takes in water from the 150-mile Sweetwater Canal. This man-made canal is a complex system of open channels, siphons, bridges, crossings, culverts and filters. It pumps water into two 750,000 cubic meter storage tanks for the region's drinking water.

Unfortunately, the Sweetwater system was constructed under difficult conditions with limited resources, resulting in major operational and environmental problems. It was

designed to be concrete lined, but in reality only 60 percent of this canal is lined, with the rest only a trench through unlined clay.

Problems were compounded when the marshes northwest of Basra were completely drained, removing the filtering effect of plant life and allowing unwanted minerals to mix into canal water. The canal has experienced problems with leakage, bank collapse, breaches and other structural problems, many of which underwent hasty, emergency repairs to keep the water flowing.

It was a massive project to repair so many problems. The Basra/Umm Qasr Water Supply Project cost \$16 million, but now provides an uninterrupted flow to a city once known as the "Venice of the Middle East."



U.S. Agency for International Development photo by Thomas Hartwell

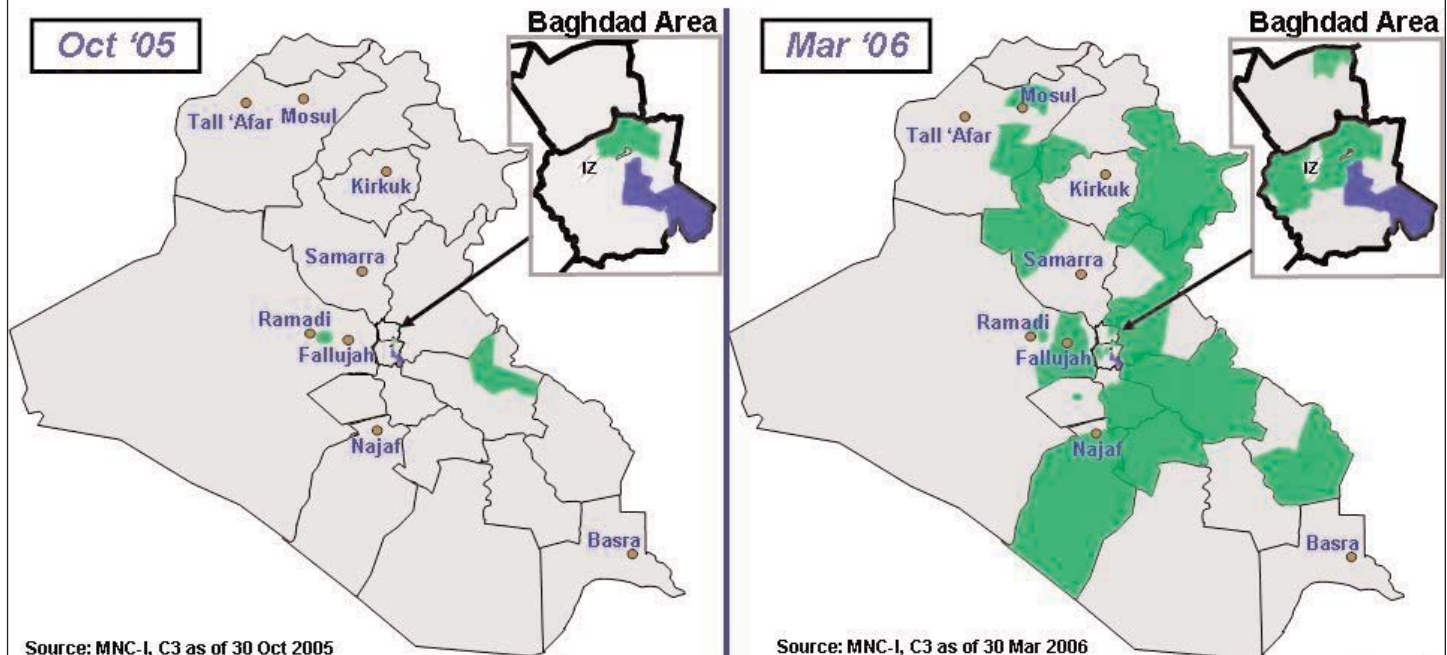
**Loaders remove accumulated silt from storage reservoirs in the Sweetwater Canal as part of a project to supply fresh water to the city of Basra.**



U.S. Agency for International Development photo by Thomas Hartwell

**Two storage reservoirs of the Sweetwater Canal control flow of fresh water downstream.**

## Iraqi Army Lead and National Police Lead



Component	DIV HQs	BDE HQs	BN
Army	1	4	23
National Police	0	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>

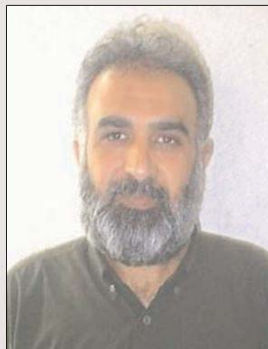
**Iraqi Army Lead**  
**National Police Lead**

Component	DIV HQs	BDE HQs	BN
Army	2	14	52
National Police	0	2	6

### MNF-I Weekly Press Conference

#### Bin Laden Associate, Rafid Ibrahim Fattah, killed in Iraq

- Had ties to Jaysh al-Islami, Ansar al Sunnah, Taliban members in Afghanistan, Pakistani-based extremists and senior al-Qaida leaders to include Osama bin Laden and Zawahiri.
- Traveled extensively through Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq over the past 15 years and formed relationships with al-Qaida's senior leaders in Afghanistan.
- Given the title of al-Qaida Ambassador and served as a liaison between terrorist networks, an operations officer who coordinated activities of terrorist groups, and security chief for a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan.
- Over the past six months, al-Kurdi worked as a Jaysh al-Islami Cell leader in Baqouba and was allegedly involved in kidnapping an Iraqi woman.



**Rafid Ibrahim**  
aka. Abu Umar al-Kurdi  
killed on March 27



Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch  
MNF-I Spokesman

#### Meeting expectations

"A quarter of a million trained and equipped Iraqi Security Force members are now operating in Iraq conducting counter-insurgency operations. And I say that to give you an indication of our success, and that success is in protection of Iraq's most important infrastructure.

"The number of attacks against the Iraqi infrastructure has decreased by 60 percent in the last three months, and that is directly attributable to the fact that we've reached the point where we have that many Iraqi security forces out conducting very, very important missions all across Iraq."

#### Cutting the head

"Over 115 tier one, tier two, tier three leaders of the al-Qaida network have been taken out over the last several months.

"On [March 27], we conducted a raid against Abu Umar al-Kurdi. He focused his operations in the town of Baqouba and did a series of attacks. He was taken off the street by an effective raid ... and those kinds of operations will continue - to take down the most horrendous enemy to the people of Iraq, and that's al-Qaida and Zarqawi and his network."





Lt. Col. Grzegorz Matyjaszyk, a doctor with the Polish Army Medical Division Field Hospital at Camp Echo in Diwaniyah, examines an Iraqi boy Monday in need of surgery. Matyjaszyk said the boy could die soon if he doesn't get the heart surgery, for which he will have to be transported to Poland.



Orthopedic Surgeon Lt. Col. Jacer Slys wraps a support onto the arm of an Iraqi man. The man's nerves were damaged by Iraqi doctors during surgery to remove a tumor from his arm.

# The Doctors of Diwaniyah

Photos by Senior Airman Jason T. Bailey



Polish Army Lt. Col. Jacer Slys reviews the X-ray of an Iraqi man's knee at the Polish Army Medical Division Field Hospital at Camp Echo on.



An Iraqi patient has his arm examined by Lt. Col. Jacer Slys in Diwaniyah Monday. The Polish-run hospital has an Orthopedics, Internal Medicine and Surgical unit.

# Coalition Forces crack down of IEDers

Story by Sgt. Kristopher Joseph  
Multi-National Corps-Iraq Public Affairs Office

## Counterfeiters captured

A raid by 101st Airborne Division Soldiers in Samarra Thursday led to the capture of three suspected insurgents, including two believed to be part of a document forging operation.

A source provided Soldiers information about the insurgents. The two suspected forgers were found at a house where Soldiers seized about \$2,000 in U.S. currency, more than 500,000 Iraqi Dinars, 125 various forms of identification, fake stamps for the IDs and a rifle.

The tip leading to the capture of these suspects continues the trend of Iraqi citizens supporting the Soldiers from the 9th Iraqi Army Division and Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

## Anyone home?

While searching an abandoned house, 4th Infantry Division Soldiers on patrol noticed three suspicious men atop a building suspected to be an insurgent stronghold.

Realizing they had been seen, the men fled. The patrol gave chase and captured two men, one of whom has links to recent terrorist attacks. A third man surrendered as the Iraqi Soldiers were detaining the others.

As the Soldiers surrounded the building, a vehicle approached. When the driver saw the other three suspects in custody, he attempted to flee the scene. An Iraqi Soldier stopped the vehicle with a warning shot, and the two vehicle occupants were detained for questioning.

## Family ties

Soldiers captured a kidnapping suspect at a traffic control point near Tikrit.

A driver who stopped at the checkpoint told 101st Airborne Division Soldiers that a man in a vehicle behind him had kidnapped a family.

The Soldiers identified the kidnapper's vehicle and detained the suspect. A woman and her four children were in the vehicle and freed while the suspect was turned over to the local police.

## Coalition caravan

Coalition Forces discovered a large



U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Brian M. Henner

**Spc. Frank Mireles, from the 4th Infantry Division, and an Iraqi Soldier patrol Hit Monday.**

cache of weapons and improvised explosive device making materials in Mosul based off a tip from a citizen.

Soldiers from the 172nd Stryker Brigade seized rocket propelled grenade warheads, mortar shells, grenades, sniper rifles with scopes, and several thousand rounds of ammunition.

The Soldiers also found 10 pounds of plastic explosive, detonation cord and various other components for construct-

ing IEDs.

## Task force tips

Based on a tip, Coalition Forces raided a house in Baghdad Thursday, killing one man and detaining three suspects during a search for al-Qaida terrorists.

As troops approached a potential safe house, two suspects in an adjacent courtyard opened fire. Coalition Forces returned fire, killing one and detaining

*See OPERATIONS, next page*





U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon II

Pfc. Thaddeus Schoenemann from the 1st Armored Division radios in his position during a patrol in Tal Afar Friday.

## Operations

from previous page

the other. The man killed was later identified as a retired officer in the Iraqi Air Force, who served during the Saddam Hussein regime. The man who initiated the gunfire is a suspected al-Qaida terrorist for whom the Soldiers were searching, as well as the retired officer's son.

Coalition Forces then searched the house and detained two more men and found the shooter's pistol, a rifle and ammunition for both weapons.

### Expensive escape

101st Airborne Division Soldiers killed one insurgent and wounded another following an attack in Hawijah Wednesday.

Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, passed through a traffic control point during a combat patrol when insurgents fired three RPGs at them. The Soldiers quickly spotted a white pick-up truck with the two insurgents inside and returned fire. The driver of the truck headed to a nearby village with the Bastogne Soldiers in pursuit. Aviators in OH-58 helicopters

secured the area from above while the Bastogne Soldiers searched the city for the truck.

They found the truck with the body of one of the insurgents inside, and found a trail of blood from the other insurgent who had fled with the RPG launcher. The Soldiers were unable to locate the wounded insurgent. Bastogne Soldiers turned the body of the dead terrorist over to the Iraqi Police and resumed their patrol.

### Counting sheep

Soldiers spotted an insurgent placing an IED along a road near Hawijah on Wednesday. The 101st Airborne Division's Soldiers watched as the suspect, riding a blue motorcycle, stopped alongside the road, set the bomb and then drove to a mud hut where he met with another man. Following a short discussion, the two suspects settled in among a herd of sheep so they could witness the explosion.

**They found the truck with the body of one of the insurgents inside, and found a trail of blood from the other insurgent who had fled with the RPG launcher.**

When Coalition Forces arrived, the two suspects fled from their hiding place, leaving a transmission device and camcorder under a nearby bush. After a short search, the Soldiers, along with an explosive ordnance disposal unit, confirmed the existence of the IED as well as a secondary bomb placed on the road nearby.

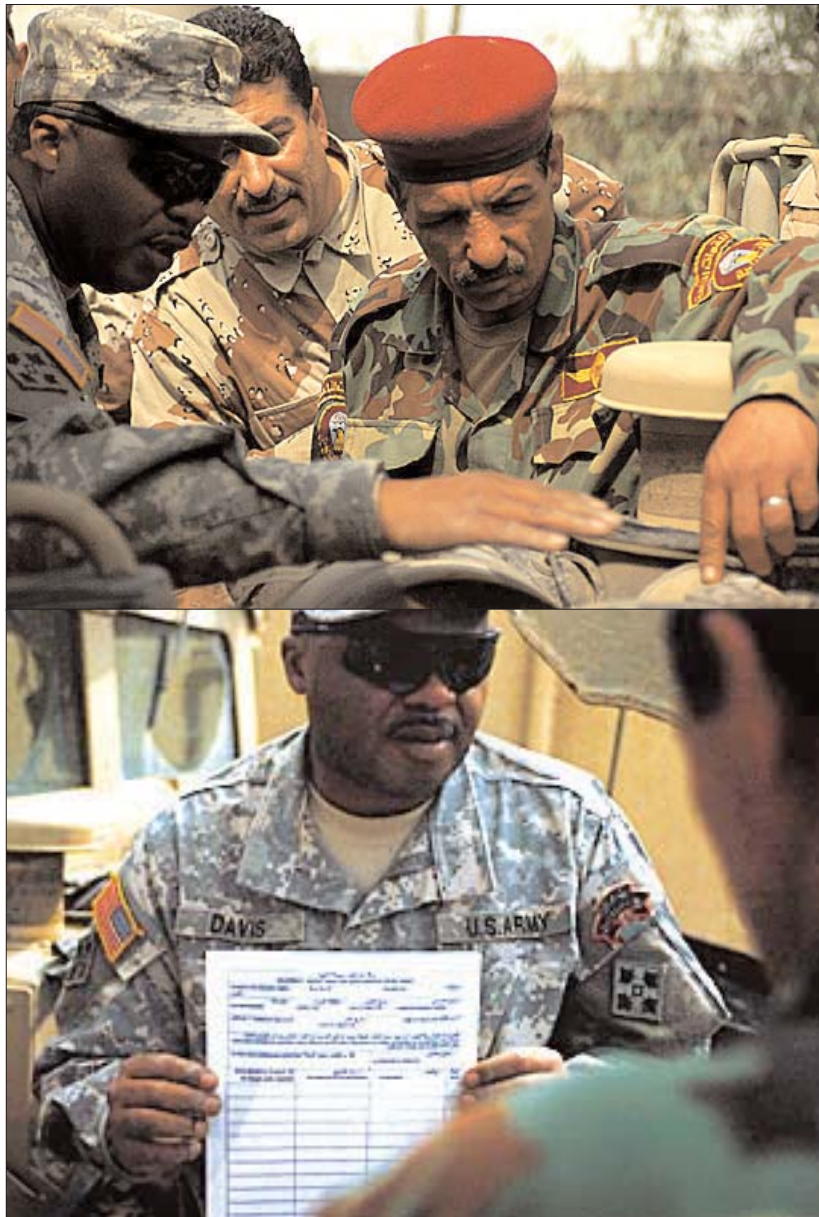
Bastogne Soldiers track-ed and detained the two suspects, confiscating a camera phone. As the Soldiers continued their search of the area, they discovered two more suspects with IED making materials. All four were detained for questioning.

### Eyes in the sky

A coalition aircraft saw men stringing wire from an IED to a nearby hiding place and a patrol from the 101st Airborne Division was sent to investigate on Wednesday.

The Soldiers captured the insurgents without incident and the men led the troops to the hidden IED.





# Iraqi Soldiers learn Humvee maintenance

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**BAQOUBA** — Military transition teams not only help the Iraqi Army become proficient at soldiering skills, but they also emphasize the importance of equipment maintenance to the Iraqi Soldiers.

Staff Sgt. Kim Davis, of the 4th Infantry Division's 68th Combined Arms Battalion, instructed Iraqi Soldiers of the 5th Iraqi Army Division's 4nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, on Humvee preventative maintenance checks and services.

Davis trains the Iraqi Army as a member of the battalion's military transition team and works with the Iraqi Soldiers on Humvee maintenance and driver training.

"It is a good idea," said Davis. "If they know how to operate them, then they need to know how to maintain them."

Although this unit does not have Humvees of their own yet, the training is nevertheless valuable.

"It is a good idea to stay on top of this so that when they do get them, they know how to properly take care of them," said Capt. Scott Lynch, the military transition team leader.

Some Iraqi army units have already been issued Humvees and are using them on their patrols.

**Staff Sgt. Kim Davis, with the 4th Infantry Division, trains Iraqi Soldiers on Humvee preventative maintenance checks and services.**

## Team of Marines mentor Iraqi Soldiers in Haditha

Story by Sgt. Roe F. Seigle  
7th Marine Regimental Combat Team

**HADITHA** — Arguably the most important mission of Coalition Forces in Iraq is assisting Iraqi Security Forces to eventually spearhead all security operations in Iraq.

In this Euphrates River valley city, the task of guiding Iraqi Army progress falls on the shoulders of a handful of Marines here who live, eat, train and fight with the Iraqi Soldiers.

Military transition teams, which are partnered with Iraqi Army units throughout al Anbar Province, advise the Iraqi military in marksmanship, counterinsurgency opera-

tions, intelligence gathering and other military skills crucial to providing security here.

"The Iraqi Soldiers have their minds set on becoming independent of Coalition Forces," said Staff Sgt. Mike Wear, an intelligence chief assigned to the team.

The team prepares the young Iraqi Army to take over the job of securing its own country.

In Baghdadi, a small city nestled along the Euphrates River in western al Anbar Province, Iraqi Soldiers are becoming independent, said Wear.

The Iraqi Soldiers have lost two of their

comrades in insurgent attacks. A major was killed while on leave at his home in Baghdadi and another was killed by a suicide bomber in Haditha.

According to the commanding officer of the local Iraqi Army unit, the Soldiers' motivation to fight insurgents is steady despite the loss of two of their own comrades.

"I want the Soldiers to continue to do the job they are doing," said the commanding officer, who wishes to remain anonymous. "We need the Marines' support and they are very professional when it comes to training my Soldiers."



# Rebuilding Iraq

Projects that are shaping a nation



## Fallujah

Fallujah's telephone services will improve thanks to new equipment used to maintain the communication system.

## Qalaa

More than two miles of water lines will connect about 15,000 residents in Qalaa with a new water pump.



## Kirkuk

A police station has been built in Kirkuk, enhancing local security.

## Baghdad

Renovations are complete to the Mustafa School in the Sadr City neighborhood of Baghdad. Workers replaced lighting, water lines and remodeled the restrooms.

## Azrakiya

More than 5,000 residents in Azrakiya and Elbo Hatan in the al Anbar Province will receive clean water thanks to new water treatment plants.

## Baghdad

More than 4 miles of sewer pipes has been installed in the Baghdad neighborhood of Azamiyah.

## Diwaniyah

About 1,600 households in Diwaniyah are receiving reliable electricity thanks to 40 new transformer kiosks.

## Nassyriah

A new fire station in Nassyriah will serve about 100,000 residents.





Two policemen provide security during the grand opening of the Fallujah police station on Thursday.

# The Force in Fallujah

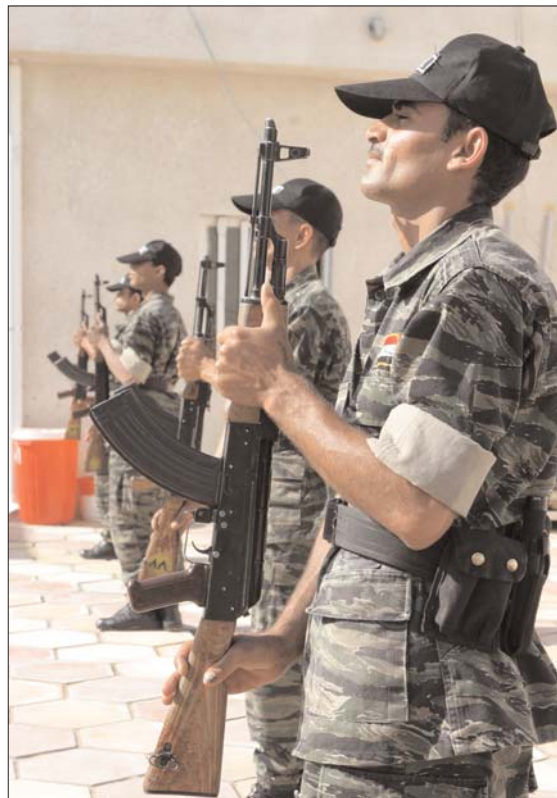
**Police celebrate the opening  
of a new police station in the  
restive town of Fallujah**

Photos can be found on [www.mnf-iraq.com](http://www.mnf-iraq.com)

*U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Ramona Marie G. Pecala*



An Iraqi Police officer salutes as he conducts a pass-in-review during the grand opening ceremony of the Fallujah police station.



Iraqi Police practice drill movements before the opening ceremony of the Fallujah police station.



Award medals that read "Service to country is an honor" are displayed before being given to recipients after the grand opening ceremony of the Fallujah police station.